

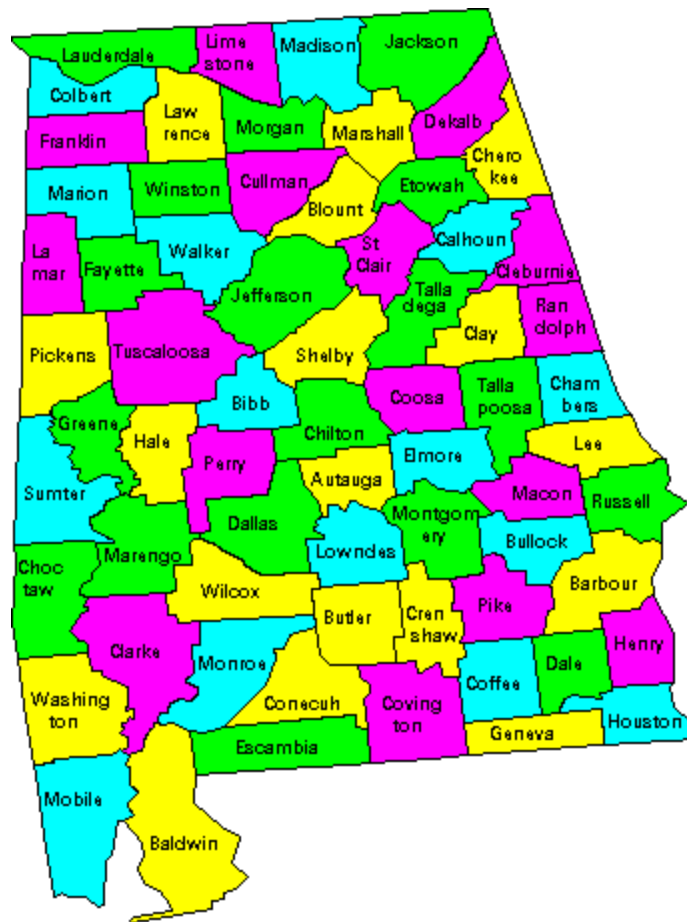
Office of National Drug Control Policy

Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

State of Alabama

Profile of Drug Indicators

August 2000



ONDCP Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse staff compiled this profile by using the most recent data available from open sources. The data presented are as accurate as the sources from which they were drawn. The information contained in this profile should not be used to rank or compare States or jurisdictions, due to differences in data collection and reporting methods.

Alabama

The following profile contains information on demographics, political figures, programs, crime, drug use, drug trafficking, and enforcement statistics.

Demographics¹

- Population : 4,369,862 (1999 estimate); 4,040, 000 (1990 Census)
- Race/Ethnicity (1990): 73.7% white; 25.3% African American; 0.5% Asian or Pacific Islander; 0.1% other; 0.6% Hispanic
- Percent of Population Living Below Poverty Level (1990): 19.2%

Politics²

- Governor: Don Siegelman
- Attorney General: Bill Pryor
- Secretary of State: Jim Bennett
- U.S. Senate: Jeff Sessions (R) Richard Shelby (R)
- U.S. Representatives (Districts 1-7, respectively): Sonny Callahan; Terry Everett; Bob Riley; Robert Aderholt; Robert Cramer; Spencer Bachus; Earl F. Hilliard

Programs/Initiatives

- High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA)³
The Gulf Coast HIDTA was designated in 1996 and is responsible for Baldwin, Jefferson, Mobile, and Montgomery Counties in Alabama. In addition to Alabama, the Gulf Coast HIDTA is also responsible for counties in Louisiana and Mississippi. This Gulf Coast area serves as a gateway for illicit drugs through seven deep water ports, vast coastal waterways, and an extensive system of commercial and private airports. The region's central location makes it attractive for traffickers with bases of operations on either the East or West coasts of the United States. Traffickers move imported cocaine powder to locations such as Birmingham, Alabama or Jackson, Mississippi and then convert it to crack cocaine.
- FY 1999 Drug-Free Communities grantees awarded funding by ONDCP in conjunction with the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention:⁴
 - \$97,238 to the Community Service Programs of West Alabama, Inc. of Tuscaloosa
 - \$99,933 to the Partnership for a Drug-Free Community, Inc. of Huntsville
- Executive Office of Weed and Seed⁵
 - Mobile: The target area for this Weed and Seed site is composed of two neighborhoods, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Maysville. Both of these areas have experienced high levels of crime, drug trafficking, and unemployment.
 - Huntsville: The target area for this site is the Terry Heights Community, where there are above average levels of crime.
 - There are additional Weed and Seed sites in Birmingham and Prichard.

Crime and Drug-Related Crime

- In Alabama, during 1998, there were 15,146 arrests for drug abuse violations. Of those arrested, 1,348 were juvenile offenders.⁶

Number of Arrests, Alabama, 1998

Offense	Under 18	Total all ages
Murder Non-negligent Manslaughter	32	344
Forcible Rape	49	413
Robbery	354	1,640
Aggravated Assault	443	5,645
Burglary	805	3,322
Larceny/theft	3,720	16,939
Motor Vehicle Theft	270	1,379
Arson	25	121
Drug Abuse Violations	1,348	15,146
Driving Under the Influence	212	19,061
Liquor Laws	875	8,195
Drunkenness	149	11,624

- In 1999, 63.8% of the 738 adult male arrestees sampled in Birmingham tested positive for drugs at the time of their arrest. 53.2% of the 111 adult female arrestees sampled tested positive.⁷

Percent of Arrestees Testing Positive for Drugs, Birmingham, 1999

Offense	Cocaine		Marijuana		Methamphet.		Any Drug	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Violent	28.4	14.3	35.8	42.9	0.0	0.0	54.1	50.0
Property	44.4	30.6	37.3	14.3	0.0	0.0	69.9	40.8
Drug	41.3	50.0	49.0	40.9	0.5	4.5	74.8	77.3
Sales	34.6	--	50.0	--	0.0	--	69.2	--
Possession	42.7	50.0	48.6	40.9	0.5	4.5	76.2	77.3
Prostitution	37.5	100.0	12.5	25.0	0.0	25.0	50.0	100.0
Other	33.4	36.7	40.1	36.7	0.0	0.0	61.1	60.0

Drugs⁸

- Law enforcement officials in Birmingham report drug use as stable or up.

Law Enforcement Report of Drug Use, Birmingham, 1998

	Use	Who's Using	Prevalent	Drugs in Comb.	Who's Selling	Price/Purity
			Method of Use			
Heroin	Stable	Older users White males	Injection		Young African American males	\$125 ¼ gram; low purity
Cocaine/Crack	Up	Middle-class use is up; More young users	Snorting Smoking	Marijuana	Young African American males	\$50/gram; variable in price/purity
Marijuana	Up	"Everyone"		Cocaine	Sellers in early 20's – early 30's	\$700-\$1200/lb

Juveniles

- In 1999, 41.7% of Alabama high school students surveyed reported trying marijuana at least once in their lifetime.⁹

Percent of Alabama High School Students Using Selected Drugs, 1999

Drug Type and Use	Female	Male	Total
Lifetime Marijuana Use	37.5	45.7	41.7
Current Marijuana Use	17.9	26.3	22.2
Lifetime Cocaine Use	6.8	9.6	8.2
Current Cocaine Use	2.1	4.4	3.2
Lifetime Inhalant Use	15.9	16.1	16.1
Current Inhalant Use	3.5	5.2	4.4
Lifetime Heroin Use	1.5	4.7	3.1
Lifetime Methamphetamine Use	10.7	11.0	10.8
Lifetime Illegal Steroid Use	3.9	6.5	5.3
Lifetime Injecting Illegal Drug Use	1.2	4.5	3.0
Tried Marijuana Before Age 13	5.5	14.0	9.8

- In 1999, 45.3% of the juvenile male arrestees sampled in Birmingham tested positive for drugs at the time of their arrest.¹⁰

Percent of Male Juvenile Arrestees Testing Positive for Drugs, Birmingham, 1999

Offense	N	Cocaine	Marijuana	Any Drug
Violent	34	2.9	44.1	44.1
Property	26	11.5	46.2	53.8
Drug	10	0.0	70.0	70.0
Sales	0	--	--	--
Possession	10	0.0	70.0	70.0
Other	48	2.1	33.3	35.4
All Others	16	0.0	25.0	25.0

Trafficking and Seizures

- In 1998, there were a total of 58,086 marijuana plants eradicated in Alabama.

Number of marijuana plants eradicated and seized, Alabama, 1998¹¹

Outdoor Operations	Plots eradicated	2,708
	Cultivated plants eradicated ^a	56,903
	Ditchweed eradicated ^b	0
Indoor Operations	Grows seized	7
	Plants eradicated	1,183

- The cultivation of local grown marijuana is reported in every county and is reported to be the most valuable cash crop grown in Alabama. Imported drugs are also present in significant quantities due to Alabama's rural makeup, coastal area, extensive water,

highway, and airport systems, as well as relative proximity to foreign countries exporting illegal drugs. Importation and use of crack cocaine presents a very serious crime problem in Alabama.¹²

Consequences of Use

- There were 92 drug-related deaths reported by Medical Examiners (ME) in Birmingham during 1998. Cocaine was mentioned in 47 (51.1%) of these deaths.¹³

Number of Drug Mentions (Selected Drugs) Reported by MEs, Birmingham, 1995-98

	1995	1996	1997	1998
Cocaine	37	45	47	47
Heroin/Morphine	6	3	5	1
Marijuana/Hashish	1	--	3	2
Methadone	9	7	7	11
Total Drug Abuse Deaths	64	75	88	92

Enforcement

- In Alabama during 1998 there were a total of 14,738 law enforcement employees. Of this total number of employees, 9,954 were police officers and 4,784 were civilian employees.¹⁴
- Gulf Coast HIDTA Initiatives in Alabama:¹⁵
 - Jefferson County Drug Task Force: targets major drug traffickers operating in and around Birmingham; focuses on methamphetamine distribution in the area, which has increased exponentially.
 - Mobile/Baldwin Counties Task Force: targets major drug traffickers in the Mobile/Baldwin area; augments interdiction efforts at airports, seaports, bus and rail terminals, major highways, and inland waterways.
 - There is also the Alabama Operations Team

Courts

- In 1998, 44.7% of the total Federal defendants sentenced in Alabama had committed a drug offense. The most prevalent drug involved was crack cocaine (60.9%), followed by marijuana (14.8%), powder cocaine (14.4%), methamphetamine (7%), and heroin (0.2%). Substances that do not fall into any of these categories made up 2.1% of the total.¹⁶
- Drug Courts:¹⁷
 - As of March 31, 2000, there were 16 drug courts in Alabama that were either already in existence or were being planned.
 - Four of these drug courts have been operating for over 2 years.
 - Four drug courts have recently been implemented.
 - Eight drug courts are being planned in Alabama.

Corrections

- The Alabama Department of Corrections is made up of 19 correctional facilities, 14 work release centers, and 2 community work centers.¹⁸

- In the middle of 1999 (June 30), there were 24,283 prisoners under the jurisdiction of State or Federal correctional authorities in Alabama. At mid-year 1998, there were 22,501 such prisoners. These numbers represent a 7.9% increase from 1998 to 1999 in the number of prisoners in Alabama.¹⁹
- Drug testing, sanctions, and treatment are used to ensure zero tolerance in Alabama's prisons, and the inmates are subject to drug testing at any time. There were 1,555 inmates in drug treatment programs in 1997. In 1996, there were 46,703 inmate drug tests completed at a cost of \$1-\$1.30 per sample.²⁰
- At the end of 1999, there were 41,757 adults on probation in Alabama. At the beginning of 1999, there had been 40,379 adults on probation.²¹
- From the beginning of 1999 (January 1) to the end of 1999 (December 31), the number of adults on parole in Alabama decreased 4.1% from 5,221 to 5,005.²²

Treatment

- In 1997 there were 77 treatment facilities that held 10,664 clients in Alabama. Of the total number of clients, 22.4% were treated for both alcohol and drug abuse problems, 54.5% for drug problems alone, and 23.2% for alcohol problems alone.²³

¹ U.S. Census Bureau Web site: <http://www.census.gov>

² State of Alabama Web site: <http://www.state.al.us/>

³ Gulf Coast HIDTA Web site: <http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/enforce/hidta/gulf-fs.html>

⁴ Drug-Free Communities Web site: <http://ojjdp.ncjrs.org/dfcs/index.html>

⁵ Weed and Seed Web site: <http://www.weedseed.org>

⁶ FBI, *Crime in the United States, 1998*, October 1999: <http://www.fbi.gov/ucr.html>

⁷ National Institute of Justice, *1999 Arrestee Drug Abuse Monitoring Program: Annual Report on Drug Use Among Adult and Juvenile Arrestees*, June 2000: <http://www.ncjrs.org/pdffiles1/nij/99adltfind.pdf>

⁸ ONDCP, *Pulse Check, Trends in Drug Abuse, January/June 1998*, Winter 1998

⁹ CDC, *Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance Summary - United States, 1999*, June 2000: <http://ftp.cdc.gov/pub/Publications/mmwr/ss/ss4905.pdf>

¹⁰ National Institute of Justice, *1999 Arrestee Drug Abuse Monitoring Program: Annual Report on Drug Use Among Adult and Juvenile Arrestees*, June 2000: <http://www.ncjrs.org/pdffiles1/nij/99adltfind.pdf>

¹¹ U.S. Department of Justice, Drug Enforcement Agency, *Domestic Cannabis Eradication/Suppression Program*, 1997.

¹² State of Alabama, *Drug Strategy Plan 1997*, 1997

¹³ SAMHSA, *Drug Abuse Warning Network Annual Medical Examiner Data 1999*, March 2000: http://www.samhsa.gov/oas/DAWN/98me_annual.pdf

¹⁴ FBI, *Uniform Crime Reports: Crime in the United States, 1998*, October 1999: <http://www.fbi.gov/ucr.html>

¹⁵ Gulf Coast HIDTA Web site: <http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/enforce/hidta/gulf-fs.html>

¹⁶ United States Sentencing Commission Web site: www.ussc.gov

¹⁷ OJP Drug Court Clearinghouse and Technical Assistance Project, *Summary of Drug Court Activity by State and County*, March 31, 2000

¹⁸ Alabama Department of Corrections Web site: <http://agencies.state.al.us/doc/addresses.html>

¹⁹ Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Prison and Jail Inmates at Midyear 1999*, April 2000: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/abstract/pjim99.htm>

²⁰ Corrections Program Office, *State Efforts to Reduce Substance Abuse Among Offenders*, October 1998

²¹ Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Probation and Parole in 1999*, July 2000: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pub/pdf/pp99pr.pdf>

²² Ibid.

²³ SAMHSA, *Uniform Facility Data Set (UFDS): 1997, June 1999*

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